

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-68. (Cancelled)

69. (New) A washing method in a washing machine having a cabinet, a wash tub located in the cabinet, a wash drum located in the wash tub, a valve connected to a water source, a water supply line connected to the valve, and a steam generator located in the cabinet between an outer circumferential side of the wash tub and the cabinet, the steam generator being connected to the water supply line, the method comprising:

supplying water to the wash tub through the steam generator;

tumbling laundry in the wash drum by rotating the wash drum when water is in the wash tub;

storing water in a space between the valve and the wash tub;

generating steam from the stored water by the steam generator after supplying water to the wash tub through the steam generator; and

supplying the generated steam into the wash tub while tumbling the laundry, the generated steam being supplied through a steam supply line that is independent of the water supply line, the steam supply line being in communication with the wash tub at an upper portion of the wash tub.

70. (New) The washing method according to claim 69, wherein supplying water includes:

supplying water into the wash tub to a first water level;

wetting laundry with the water; and

supplying water into the wash tub to a second water level.

71. (New) The washing method according to claim 69, wherein generating steam includes:

supplying water into the steam generator provided with a heater; and

heating the water supplied into the steam generator by operating the heater.

72. (New) The washing method according to claim 71, wherein the water supplied into the steam generator is limited to a predetermined water level.

73. (New) The washing method according to claim 71, wherein heating the water includes supplying the water to contact the heater inside the steam generator.

74. (New) The washing method according to claim 71, wherein supplying water into the steam generator includes simultaneously opening the water supply line adapted to guide water into the steam generator and the steam supply line adapted to guide steam from the steam generator.

75. (New) The washing method according to claim 71, wherein supplying water into the steam generator includes resupplying water into the steam generator when a temperature of the steam generator reaches a predetermined temperature.

76. (New) The washing method according to claim 71, wherein the operation of the heater is stopped when a pressure of the steam generator reaches a predetermined pressure.

77. (New) The washing method according to claim 71, wherein the heater is operated for a predetermined operating time.

78. (New) The washing method according to claim 71, wherein injecting the generated steam is performed when a temperature of the steam generator reaches a predetermined temperature.

79. (New) The washing method according to claim 69, further comprising spraying water from a bottom portion of the wash tub into the wash tub and supplying water from water source.

80. (New) The washing method according to claim 79, wherein supplying water and spraying water are repeated at least once.

81. (New) A washing method in a washing machine having a cabinet, a wash tub located in the cabinet, a wash drum located in the wash tub, a water supply line, and a steam generator located in the cabinet between an outer circumferential side of the wash tub and the cabinet, the steam generator being connected to the water supply line, and a detergent box, the method comprising:

supplying water to the wash tub through the detergent box;

tumbling laundry by rotating the wash drum when water is in the wash tub;

after starting tumbling of the laundry, supplying water into the steam generator through the water supply line, the water in the steam generator being separate from the water in the wash tub;

generating steam by the steam generator from the water supplied into the steam generator; and

supplying the generated steam into the wash tub while tumbling the laundry, the generated steam being supplied through a steam supply line that is independent of the water supply line, the steam supply being in communication with the wash tub at an upper portion of the wash tub.

82. (New) The washing method according to claim 81, wherein supplying water to the wash tub includes:

supplying water into the wash tub to a first water level;

wetting laundry with the water; and

supplying water into the wash tub to a second water level.

83. (New) The washing method according to claim 81, wherein generating steam includes heating the water supplied into the steam generator by operating a heater in the steam generator.

84. (New) The washing method according to claim 83, wherein the water supplied into the steam generator is limited to a predetermined water level.

85. (New) The washing method according to claim 83, wherein supplying water into the steam generator includes resupplying water into the steam generator when a temperature of the steam generator reaches a predetermined temperature.

86. (New) The washing method according to claim 83, wherein the heater is operated for a predetermined operating time.

87. (New) The washing method according to claim 81, further comprising spraying water from a bottom portion of the wash tub into the wash tub without supplying the water to the steam generator.

88. (New) The washing method according to claim 87, wherein supplying water into the wash tub and spraying water are repeated at least once.

89. (New) A washing method in a washing machine having a cabinet, a wash tub located in the cabinet, a wash drum located in the wash tub, a water supply line, and a steam generator located in the cabinet between an outer circumferential side of the wash tub and the cabinet, the steam generator being connected to the water supply line, the method comprising:
supplying water to the wash tub;
tumbling laundry in the wash drum by rotating the wash drum when water is in the wash tub;

supplying water to the steam generator located in the cabinet through the water supply line;

generating steam by the steam generator after supplying water to the wash tub, the steam generator being isolated from the wash tub such that air in the wash tub is not introduced into the steam generator while generating steam; and

supplying the generated steam into the wash tub while tumbling the laundry, the generated steam being supplied through a steam supply line that is independent of the water supply line, the steam supply line being in communication with the wash tub at an upper portion of the wash tub.

90. (New) The washing method according to claim 89, wherein supplying water includes:

supplying water into the wash tub to a first water level;
wetting laundry with the water; and
supplying water into the wash tub to a second water level.

91. (New) The washing method according to claim 89, wherein the water supplied into the steam generator is limited to a predetermined water level.

92. (New) The washing method according to claim 89, wherein supplying water into the steam generator includes resupplying water into the steam generator when a temperature of the steam generator reaches a predetermined temperature.

93. (New) The washing method according to claim 89, wherein the heater is operated for a predetermined operating time.

94. (New) A washing method in a washing machine having a cabinet, a wash tub located in the cabinet, a wash drum located in the wash tub, a valve connected to a water source, a water supply line connected to the valve, and a steam generator located in the cabinet between

an outer circumferential side of the wash tub and the cabinet, the steam generator being connected to the water supply line, the method comprising:

opening the valve to supply water to the wash tub through the steam generator;

tumbling laundry in the wash drum by rotating the wash drum when water is in the wash tub;

generating steam from the water remained between the valve and the wash tub after supplying water to the wash tub through the steam generator; and

supplying the generated steam into the wash tub, the generated steam being supplied through a steam supply line that is independent of the water supply line, the steam supply line being in communication with the wash tub at an upper portion of the wash tub.

95. (New) The washing method according to claim 94, further comprising resupplying water into the steam generator when a temperature of the steam generator reaches a predetermined temperature.

96. (New) The washing method according to claim 94, wherein the heater is operated for a predetermined operating time.